Muhlenberg's Jack Gambino and Mohsin Hashim went to Bangladesh to develop their course Climate, Change and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh. Few countries face the kind of severe environmental consequences attributed to global climate change than Bangladesh. With most of its nearly 150 million people living on the vast delta of the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Meghna rivers, Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to flooding from waterways swollen by rain, increased levels of snowmelt from the Himalayas, deforestation, increased sea water infiltration and seasonal droughts. The course examines the

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR...DR. JACK GAMBINO

It's been quite a year at Muhlenberg. During last spring's primary campaign, the campus was host to Senator Barack Obama and President Bill Clinton; a visit from VP Candidate Joe Biden followed in the Fall of 2008. In large measure, the ability to bring the campaign to campus was the hard work of an extraordinary group of political science majors, especially Adrian Shanker '09 and Jonathan Rosenau '09, both of whom led the College Democrats. The campus was also host to a speaker series on the election, Citizenship, Politics and Ethics, sponsored by the Center for Ethics and the Political Science Department.

Check out the Political Science Department webpage! http://www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/polisci/
Professors Lanethea Mathews-Gardner and Michele Deegan, both of the Political Science Department, served as co-directors of the series that opened to campus an extraordinary array of discussions and debates on issues surrounding the election, the candidates, and the campaign.

Among the speakers who participated in the election series was Muhlenberg alum Dr. Sidney Milkis. Sid graduated in 1972 as a political science major and Phi Beta Kappa member. He is now White Burkett Miller Professor of Politics at University of Virginia and Assistant Director for Academic Programs at the Miller Center of Public Affairs. His most recent book on Theodore Roosevelt and the election of 1912 will be published this year by Kansas University Press. It was a real pleasure having Sid on campus, and we all look forward to his many return visits in the future.

Congratulations to Drs. Lanethea Mathews-Gardner and Michele Deegan for being granted tenure and promotion! They represent the first and second women to be tenured in Muhlenberg’s Political Science Department. Additional congratulations go to Lanethea for being named the Director of the Center for Ethics beginning in the fall of 2009.

Below: Adrian Shanker '09 with Joe Biden during Biden's campaign visit to Muhlenberg Community.

What’s New at the Polling Institute?

It was an extremely busy year at the Institute of Public Opinion. Pennsylvania’s prominent place in the presidential election assured that there would be great interest in the Keystone State. The MCIPO introduced the only state level tracking poll in the nation, with daily releases from late September until the day before election. The Institute’s results were regularly cited in major news outlets such as the New York Times, Boston Globe, Washington Post, CBS News and CNN. As in the past the MCIPO’s predictions proved very accurate, with the final poll results closely mirroring the actual election outcome.

The Institute also partnered with the University of Michigan and the Miller Center at the University of Virginia on a major national level survey on the issue of climate change. In this project the research team asked Americans about their attitudes and beliefs regarding global warming, with a focus on the role that federalism plays in dealing with this issue and the underlying reasons that determine American’s belief or non-belief in climate change. The survey projects also broke new ground by conducting four simultaneous surveys in Pennsylvania, California, Virginia and Mississippi. These projects provided some of the first comparative state level public opinion data on global warming matters.

This spring the Institute is once again busy with it’s annual Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley Quality Surveys. These project are in their 7th year of fielding and continue to explore public perceptions of life in the continued on pg. 3
COLLEGE GETS COLLEGE STUDENT POLL WORKER GRANT

On behalf of Muhlenberg College, Lanethea Mathews-Gardner secured more than $10,000 from the US Election Assistance Commission to implement the Help American Vote Program during the 2008 Presidential election. Through its participation in the program—dubbed the Muhlenberg College-Lehigh County Voting Integrity & Civic Education Project—Muhlenberg recruited more than 45 student poll workers and 12 Spanish language interpreters who worked on Election Day. Four faculty members and the Office of Community Outreach & Civic Engagement received small grants to collaborate with the program, building a partnership with the Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration. As part of the grant, Dr. Mathews-Gardner collaborated with Dr. Michele Deegan and students in the Political Science Research Methods class to evaluate the impact of serving as a poll worker on students’ political interests, efficacy, and ambition. They found that students who served as poll workers reported high levels of trust in government after Election Day and their experiences. The vast majority of students who participated in the program indicated that they were very or somewhat likely to work as poll workers again in the future (see Figure 1 @ left).

Commonwealth and in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. As always the Institute’s success is directly attributable to an outstanding staff of Muhlenberg students. This year’s management team is made up of Adrian Shanker, Sarah Schrader, Thomas Bertorelli, Julian Lumpkin, Mara Silverman, Emily Lebecka and Gennea Goldner. The Institute’s improved website (muhlenberg.edu/studorgs/polling/) is run by Maureen Bayraktar and this year’s Assistant Director is Elisa Zaehringer.

Polling Institute...continued from pg. 2

CONGRATULATIONS!
The Political Science Department is proud to congratulate Drs. Michele Moser Deegan and Lanethea Mathews-Gardner on becoming the first female tenured political scientists at Muhlenberg. Way to go!
STUDY ABROAD IN BANGLADESH...CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

scope and limits of Bangladesh's developmental response to global climate change. Specifically, the course:

1) examines the record of economic, social and political development since Bangladesh's independence under both state-sponsored and "neoliberal" development strategies;

2) investigates the environmental and social consequences of those strategies, especially in the context of climate change; and

3) inquires about and evaluates new "sustainable development" strategies that are emerging as a response to the challenges posed by climate change.

Sixteen Muhlenberg students from various disciplines are currently enrolled in the class. At the end of the semester, they will visit Bangladesh on a two-week study trip. They will be hosted by the Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies, an internationally renowned thinktank dealing with environmental issues. Students will visit projects and sites that allow them to observe the effects of climate variability and change in Bangladesh, and to examine the policy responses generated by the international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations. They will listen to internationally recognized scholars and activists dealing with climate change issues in Bangladesh. A highlight of the trip will be a three day guided boat trip to the Sundarbans – the world's largest mangrove forest.

UPDATE FROM THE LEHIGH VALLEY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

The Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC), under the Directorship of Muhlenberg's Michele Deegan, has had a productive year. Faculty and students across Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) institutions are working on projects that include understanding the needs of the disabled community and building a Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community; working with the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development to assess the impact of the US Department of Labor’s Wall Street West Initiative (also known as the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development program) in northeastern PA; and researching outcomes and opportunities for Latino public school children in the Valley. Also, the LVRC published its first State of the Lehigh Valley report in December 2008; it summarizes information on the region's status in areas such as the economy, education, public health and public safety (copies are available at the LVRC's website: http://www.lehighvalleyresearch.org/).

In all, the LVRC has raised more than $400,000 in grant monies this year to fund Valley-rooted programs and projects.

Photo above: Michele Deegan (second from left) accepts a check on behalf of the LVRC to fund the Wall Street West Study.
DR. CHRI$$ BORICK$$ appeared numbers times this past election season on CBS News, NPR and PBS, and was quoted regularly in papers ranging from the London Guardian to the Los Angeles Times. He published “A Reason to Believe: Examining the Factors that Determine Americans’ Views on Global Warming,” in the Brookings Institution’s Issues in Governance (18 July 2008) with Barry Rabe. In addition to numerous op-ed pieces in the Philadelphia Inquirer on politics in Pennsylvania, Borick’s textbook, Classics of Public Policy, was also recently translated into Chinese. He presented his research on state level energy policy and a second paper, “The Message Versus the Messenger: Evaluating Public Perceptions of Communication of the War in Iraq,” at the 2008 meeting of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Borick was one of 12 invited scholars for the University of Virginia’s 2 day National Conference on Climate Change; he was also an invited speaker at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, where he presented research on climate governance issues.

DR. MICHELE MOSER DEEGAN was awarded tenure this Spring and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. As co-Director of the Center for Ethics’ Fall 2008 series, Politics, Ethics and Citizenship, Dr. Deegan focused upon engaging students and faculty in Center activities. One activity that she initiated was a campus-wide book reading of Kurt Vonnegut’s Player Piano. Over 300 students, faculty and staff participate in book discussions across campus. Dr. Deegan is also the new Truman Scholarship Advisor and the Chairperson for the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Scholars Program. As Director of the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium, Dr. Deegan has helped to expand opportunities for students and faculty to engage in public policy research concerning the Lehigh Valley. In addition, Dr. Deegan is presenting a paper at the Annual American Education Finance Association meeting in March. The paper discusses the ways in which policy makers can utilize achievement data, teacher data, and school finance data to make better resource allocation decisions.

DR. JACK GAMBINO was promoted to the rank of professor in 2008. He was part of a team representing Muhlenberg College at the AAC&U Institute on General Education in June, 2008 in Minneapolis. The Institute focused on the revision of general education curriculum. In July he traveled to Bangladesh with Dr. Hashim to research sustainable development strategies and the environmental and social impact of climate change. He delivered a conference paper entitled “From Liberalism to Democracy: Sheldon Wolin’s Search for the Political” last November in Boston.

DR. MOHSIN HASHIM continues to serve as Director of the Dana Scholars Program. This past year he presented, “Power Loss of Power Transition? Assessing the Limits of Using the Energy Sector in Reviving Russia’s Geopolitical Stature,” at the International Studies Association meeting in February, and “State Building, Military Interventions, and Political Development in Islamic Societies, in 2008 at the Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting. This semester, he is team teaching, Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh with Dr. Gambino in anticipation of their 2 week trip there scheduled for this May-June.

DR. CHRIS HERRICK presented a paper at the Northeastern Political Science Association meeting entitled “George W. Bush: Arch Enemy or Chief Contributor to Promoting Iran’s Interests - The Action and Inaction of the Bush Administration and the Growth of Iran’s Influence in the Middle East” and a paper at the Asia Network conference entitled “China: Influence and Responsibility -The Perils and Potential of an Emerging Great Power”. He also gave a presentation at NAFSA on the use of database systems and survey technology in study abroad applications. Dr. Herrick sponsored six International Studies and Political Science majors undertaking a two week internship as support staff for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. Finally, Dr. Herrick is serving as the faculty advisor for the re-newed Muhlenberg chapter of Amnesty International, continued on pg 7
TURKISH (UN)DEMOCRATIC TENDENCIES

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Turkey has been categorized by Freedom House, an organization that tracks and ranks countries in the world based on the level of political rights and civil liberties their populations enjoy, as partly free, while others prefer to classify it as an illiberal democracy. At the same time, Turkey has been

singled out by many as a beacon of hope and a shining example that Islam and democracy are quite compatible. The obvious question, then, is which view is correct? And, the obvious answer is both.

Indeed, Turkey has a complex political history, which can neither be seen as entirely democratic and liberal, nor as totally authoritarian and tyrannical. However, the recent controversy in Turkey over the effort of the ruling Justice and Development Party to lift a ban barring women from wearing Islamic headscarves in public buildings (including schools and universities), and the Constitutional Court’s decision on June 5, 2008 to overturn parliament’s actions highlights one of the more counterintuitive impediments that have prevented the country from becoming a fully consolidated democracy.

Secularism, which so many believe to be an essential element of democratic politics, in the Turkish case, has turned out to be quite undemocratic.

Secularism, in Turkey, has its historical roots in the downfall of the Ottoman Empire and the formation of the modern republic in 1923. For Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and the founders of the new Turkish Republic, the political task at hand involved forging a new Turkish nation out of the remains of the old Ottoman past. Part of this break meant that, whereas the Ottoman Empire was traditional and Islamic, the new Turkey would be modern and secular. As a result, in the first decades of the new regime a series of reforms sought to impose state control over

religion, and to get Islam out of politics. Secularizing reforms such as the abolition of the caliphate, Islamic law, and the call to prayer in Arabic, as well as the banning or discouragement of the wearing of Islamic dress were all undertaken in order to promote the transition to a modern, western, secular nation.

Despite these efforts to secularize Turkish society and politics, Islam has, especially since the military coup in 1980, served an important ideological role in Turkish politics. Islamist-inspired political parties and civil society organizations have played an important role in rejuvenating political participation in Turkey.

Drawing from Islamic values and tenets of social justice, a series of Islam-inspired political parties have gained power in local and national elections.

Yet, the Turkish military, along with the Constitutional Court, and secularist political parties have eyed this Islamist political mobilization with suspicion and fear. In response, the military was responsible for ousting one political party from power (the Welfare Party in 1997), and the Constitutional Court closed both the Welfare Party (in 1998) and its successor, the Virtue Party (in 2001) for violating constitutional provisions safeguarding the secular nature of the republic.

And, last July, the Court stopped just short of closing the latest Islamic-inspired political party, the ruling Justice and Development Party.

Ironically, since coming to power in 2002, the Justice and Development Party has done more to help consolidate Turkish democracy than nearly all other political parties that preceded it. In order to advance Turkey’s hope...continued on pg. 7
HEADSCARVES IN TURKEY...CONTINUED FROM PG. 7

for joining the European Union, the party has pursued an array of reforms including: instituting constitutional changes abolishing the death penalty and state security courts; challenging the military's oversight of domestic politics; loosening prohibitions that limited Kurdish and ethnic minority rights; and most recently, reforming penal code prohibitions that have lead to the prosecution of academics and novelists for "insulting Turkishness."

Given the widespread belief in the popular imagination that Islam and democracy are incompatible, it is ironic that the militant secularism of some within the Turkish state and society has consistently functioned in undemocratic ways. The decision to lift the ban on headscarves was a significant step forward both for Turkey, and for a world yearning to see how Islam and democracy can thrive together. The decision of the Constitutional Court, therefore, stands as a setback both to democracy in Turkey, and to those of us who insist that an Islamic democracy is possible.

For comments and questions, contact Dr. Brian Mello at bmello@muhlenberg.edu

PHOTOS: Page 7; Headscarf battlelines. Above: Galata Bridge at Sunset in Istanbul, Turkey.

FACULTY NOTES...CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

DR. LANETHEA MATHEWS-GARDNER received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor this Spring 2009. In addition, she was named Director of the Center for Ethics, beginning this Summer 2009 to serve a three year term. Mathews-Gardar presented a co-authored paper (with Kristi Andersen, Syracuse University and Mack Mariani, Xavier University) on “Gender and Candidate Quality: How do College Students View Male & Female State Legislators as Qualified for Congressional Office,” at the Western Political Science Association conference in March 2009. Mathews-Gardar is also the Project Director for a Lehigh Valley wide study on disabilities through the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC) with funding from the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network; the project is compiling a community inventory of needs and opportunities within the disability community and is a first step in facilitating the development of a Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community among organizations, businesses, elected officials, and citizens in the Lehigh Valley.

DR. BRIAN MELLO presented his research on women’s rights conducted last summer in Turkey at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. His paper was titled, “Norm Cascades and Domestic Politics: The Turkish Ratification of the UN Convention on the Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.” In addition, Dr. Mello and Dr. Hashim have embarked on a collaborative research project that explores the link between military interventions and Islamic politics in Turkey and Bangladesh. They presented a paper titled, “State Building, Military Interventions and Political Development in Islamic Societies” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association in November, 2008. In May, Dr. Mello will travel to Vancouver, British Columbia to present a paper based on the op-ed included in this newsletter.
Eta Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha
Congratulates New Members

Muhlenberg’s Eta Upsilon Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha—the National Political Science Honor Society—is proud to announce that the following students have been invited to join our chapter in recognition of their academic excellence and commitment to the study of politics.

- Jacklyn Kiely ‘09
- Sydney Farichild ‘09
- Jason LaMarca ‘09
- Joshua Hershman ‘09
- Antonina Pinette ‘09
- Sara Richwine ‘09
- Christopher Grau ‘09
- Bethany Enterline ‘09
- Adam Sosnik ‘09
- Sara Imperiale ‘10
- Shanisa Darby ‘10
- Amy Cohen ‘10
- Alec Hanna ‘10
- Ross Litman ‘10
- Melissa Kaplan ‘10
- Madeline Lesser ‘10
- Elizabeth Rattner ‘10
- Stephen Holden ‘10
- Debra Crockett ‘10
- Nicholas Phelan ‘10

Sarah Bucci, Jean Lavelle, and Nina Pinette attended Power Shift 2009, the largest youth summit on climate change in history. Power Shift participants lobbied their Congress members for a cap on carbon emissions, more green jobs, a transition to renewable energy, and strong domestic climate change legislation.

LET US PUBLISH NEWS ABOUT YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PUNDIT!
The Political Science Department wants to hear from you—our students, alumni, and friends. Send interesting news about jobs, internships, travel, marriages, births, publications, media appearances, etc. to Lanethea Mathews-Gardner at mathews@muhlenberg.edu. As always, your comments & suggestions regarding The Pundit are welcome!